

## INTRODUCTION

The Office of Plant Industry Services in the Division of Consumer Protection has the responsibility of ensuring that fertilizer and agricultural liming materials distributed in Virginia are properly labeled, registered and meet the labelers guarantee. The Fertilizer and Agricultural Liming Materials Laws provide for the collection and testing of samples of regulated materials and for assessments for variance from guarantee on deficient lots. When it is possible to identify the purchaser of the deficient material, the assessment is paid to that purchaser. These laws protect the consumer and enhance fair competition between manufacturers in the marketplace, as well as provide the basis for service to other State agencies.

During the 2015-2016 fiscal year (FY = July 1 thru June 30), a total of 826,769 tons of fertilizer products were reported sold. This is an increase of 68,350 tons or 8% above the 2014-2015 reported tonnage of 758,419 tons. This number excludes lime, mulch and peat; but includes gypsum, soil amendments, soil conditioners and horticultural growing media. Farm use tonnage for 2015-2016 was 625,595 tons which is an increase of 71,027 tons or 11% above the farm use tonnage for 2014-2015 of 554,568. Non-farm use tonnage for 2015-2016 was 201,174 tons which is a decrease of 2,677 tons or 1% below the 2014-2015 reported tonnage of 203,851.

The suppliers of agricultural liming material reported 451,390 tons sold during the 2015-2016 fiscal year. This is an increase of 5,098 tons or 1% above fiscal year 2014-2015 reported tonnage of 446,292.